

Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette



February 2026

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From the Editor

Welcome to 2026 and a new year in the life of the Naphill and Walters Ash Gazette. I find myself in the rather unusual position of writing this editorial — a role that, for more years than most of us can remember, has been firmly and brilliantly held by my friend and colleague, Sonia Goby.

Sonia has long been the steady hand at the helm, guiding the Gazette through countless editions with care, determination, and an unwavering commitment to our villages. While I had privately assumed she might be immortal, Sonia has decided that the time is right to move gently into the background and begin to step away from the day-to-day demands of the editor's chair.

I have agreed to take on the front-facing role of Editor on an interim basis, helping to steady the ship while we look for someone who may wish to take on the role in the longer term. Please do bear with us during this period — if we manage even half of what Sonia has achieved over the years, we will be doing well.

Before saying more about Sonia, it's important to recognise the remarkable team of volunteers who make the Gazette possible. Ten times a year, a group of dedicated village residents produce a full-colour magazine of 56–60 pages — a real jewel in the crown of Naphill and Walters Ash.

The Gazette is a not-for-profit company, run by a board of directors and supported by volunteers who look after advertising, finance, editing, distribution, social media, email enquiries, and everything else that comes our way. We aim to be the voice of the village, working with local organisations and providing a platform for everyone who wants to be involved. Without this team, the Gazette simply would not exist. Thank you all — your commitment, good humour, and hard work make this a pleasure to be part of.

If you are reading this and thinking that sounds like something you might enjoy being involved in, please do get in touch. We would be delighted to talk to you and welcome new volunteers.

And now, back to Sonia.

I first met Sonia around five years ago, when she asked me to take some photographs for the magazine. A former schoolteacher of some distinction, her no-nonsense approach proved ideally suited to the role of Editor. While mobility challenges mean she doesn't get out as much as she would like, this has never dampened her energy or her influence — indeed, at a recent Gazette tea party she didn't recognise half the room until people started speaking!

The unofficial world headquarters of the Naphill and Walters Ash Gazette can be found on Main Road, in the home Sonia shares with her husband Paul, himself a photographer. I was warmly welcomed there, and we have shared many laughs — and, occasionally, when patience was wearing thin, I was enlisted to help resolve some of the more “interesting” correspondence.

Between them, Sonia and Paul have transformed the Gazette and set a very high bar for what a village magazine can be. Over time, Sonia has built a strong team around her, delegated responsibility, and carefully shaped the publication into what it is today. Her decision to step back reflects not a loss of passion, but a wish to leave behind the relentless weekly demands of production, knowing the Gazette is in good hands.

We owe Sonia and Paul an enormous debt of gratitude — for their dedication, their friendship, and their unwavering support of village life. There will be a significant gap to fill, but with the continued help of our community, I am confident we can carry forward the standards they have set.

Thank you, Sonia — and here's to the next chapter of the Gazette.

Jonathan -

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Copy Date for March Gazette -12 February

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Naphill Village Hall and Playing Fields Trustee Committee - Chairman's Report

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Chairman's report January 2026.

Nine committee members attended the meeting on January 5th. The item that took the longest discussion was the hiring of the hall. With problems occurring mainly from weekend lets that took extra time for the hall to be cleaned and made ready for the next hirer a review of charges took place. It was decided that in main the hirers would pay the same rates as before but weekend bookings where the hirer was from outside the area would incur a more substantial tariff. The clock on the facia of Bon Ami has been repaired and a new plastic dome fitted, This was organised by Norma Clarke as the clock was donated by her family in memory of her husband Robert. Thank you Norma! The blue stacking chairs in the hall need repairing from time to time but some of them are unrepairable so the committee are looking for replacements and also some new tables to replace some of the existing ones.

As the Christmas tree lights were not deployed until mid December, this was due to the roadworks and the weather it has been agreed to switch them off, on the 4th. February and weather permitting taken down on the 7th. February. The line markings on the car park have nearly worn off so we are going to get them repainted. If you have any ideas about changing them or where they should be painted I have a plan of the car park that I can make available so you can design a plan that we would consider.

The committee does not have a secretary or a maintenance person and would like someone to fill either role. If you are interested please contact me via the website or chairman@naphillvillagehall.org.uk

Clive Lawrence. Village Hall Chairman



This is a brief interim report. We hope to be able to take down the lights in February and I will give a full report after that.

As most people know, the team hoped to put up the lights in late November but could not because of the road works – and poor weather forecasts. The road works cleared the area of the tree on 6th December and we put the lights up on Thursday 11th December. That was the very first time we have put the lights up mid-week (there was a brief clearing in the bad weather so we went for it). Nevertheless, we were a fortnight late in putting the lights up, and we missed a week a year ago when we had an unprecedented dead short up the tree. So we decided to leave the lights on until 2nd February (Candlemas) in compensation. Candlemas used to be the traditional date for taking down Christmas decorations. We left the lights on until Candlemas twice before, at the start of the COVID 19 pandemic, to cheer everyone up.

I must express my thanks to Inside Out Developments Ltd, sponsor of the lights, who paid for the hire of the cherry-picker which is essential to our operation. Thanks go also

to Abbie White of Vinci Facilities Defence of RAF Walter's Ash who made the arrangements for the cherry-picker.

Let us hope for some good weather during weekends in February!

Mike Mason

Fundraising for the Tree lights

There is still time to donate!

Please donate!



- Scan the QR codea
- By going direct to our Total Giving Appeal
Page: www.totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/naphilltreelights2025
- By visiting the Naphill Village Hall website
(naphillvillagehall.org.uk) and following the link



Church News

It was wonderful to welcome so many of you to our services over the Christmas period and thank you for the generous donations to our Christmas charities. It was particularly special to see children learning anew of the miracle of Christmas, holding the candles in oranges as Christingle, and dressed as angels, shepherds or varied animals at the 'pop-up' nativity.

The story of that first Christmas continued at the first Tiny Tots service of the year, when the toddlers celebrated Epiphany, emulating the wise men's journey by 'following the Star'. They had a shorter journey than the Magi, however, as our little ones only travelled round the church, taking their gifts to the baby in the Crib. Examples of gold, frankincense and myrrh were examined and - in two cases smelled - and back to the piano for more songs.



Friendship group will have had their first meeting of the year by the time you read this, and our Big Quiz will also have taken place.

Lighthouse Live has continued and the new group for young people: Rooted, has begun. This involves there being a gathering for 'youth' each week, two during the Sunday services and two out of 'Church time'.

It is not always possible to alert you to regular or forthcoming special events in these columns, but events are always detailed on our website, (www.hughendenparishchurch.org.uk) and usually on posters on our notice boards.

The biggest news is that the advert for a new vicar is now appearing in the Church Times, and on the relevant Church of England website, and we hope to be interviewing suitable candidates at the end of February.

The ad - like most job adverts - sets out both what is looked for in the right candidate, and what the post offers to that candidate, and seeks to tempt the person with the right qualities for us, now.

The recent very cold weather has challenged the Church's heating system, but in keeping with our ambitions as an Eco church, a fan has been installed over the boiler exit to distributed the hot air from it, as otherwise we just had a very cosy set of roof beams!

Jane Tyrer

'Not from the Hughenden Vicarage'

Over time, I find myself appreciating more and more the changing rhythm of the church's year, with its seasons, colours, and patterns that quietly shape our worship and our lives.

As I write, we are in the season of Epiphany, and the church is dressed in white. Epiphany begins at the start of January, as we remember the journey of the wise men, following the star in search of the child King Jesus in Bethlehem. It is a season of revelation and recognition, about seeing who Jesus truly is.

Epiphany takes us up to 'Candlemas', which this year falls on 1st February. This is the day we remember Mary and Joseph bringing their infant son to the Temple, in obedience to Jewish Law. We recall their encounter with the elderly Simeon and Anna, two faithful, prayerful people who recognise in the child Jesus the fulfilment of God's promise of a Messiah.

After this, we enter a period known as Ordinary Time. The colour turns to green, traditionally associated with growth and life, as we focus on the everyday living out of our faith.

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on 18th February. Everything changes again as purple replaces green and we begin the season of Lent, a 40-day journey towards Easter.

Ash Wednesday is a day that invites us to stop, to be honest about ourselves, and to turn again towards God. During the service, ash is marked on foreheads in the shape of a cross, accompanied by the ancient words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ."

These words can sound stark, but they are not meant to discourage us. Instead, they remind us of our human frailty and our need of God, while also pointing us towards hope, forgiveness, and renewal. Lent is not about punishment or perfection, but about making space for God to work in us, reshaping our hearts and lives through prayer, reflection, and grace.

We would love you to join us at St. Michael's as we journey together through the month of February, on a Sunday morning or evening, or on a Tuesday morning at our mid-week service. In addition this month, you'd be welcome to join us for our Service of Ashing with Holy Communion on Wednesday 18th February at 7.00 pm.

Rev'd. Helen Peters

Associate Minister



We're firmly back in the realms of reality now, following the excitement of Christmas holidays and the celebrations that come with them. For stay-at-home or part time parents this can often be a time to consider new activities with the little ones! With tons of choice in our area, a weekly outing to a music, swimming or play group can bring valuable structure and a comforting rhythm to the routine of our babies, toddlers and preschoolers well as a great chance to make friends.

I thought I would share a few classes I know of, and some useful, googleable, resources for finding activities in the surrounding area.

Baby in Bucks is a long established source for county-wide intel, and also includes baby/toddler friendly walks. Happity is a great listing for classes, and offers a weekly

email with up to date info about what's on in your selected area. Bucks Council website shouldn't be underestimated, it is a great place to pin down free classes in libraries and family centres. I made a friend from Speen in sleep deprived tiny baby days thanks to a sanity-saving weekly sing-song at the library with a small group of mums! I made another friend at a very welcoming baby group at the Baptist church in Risborough on Thursday mornings. It was simply an hour and a half to chat with other parents while the babies played with a host of lovely toys, and kind ladies offered hot drinks and biscuits!

Finally I would like to make a little plug for one of my personal favourites – Musical Mayhem. This is a lovely group, open to age 0-5. Mixed age groups are rare, but it really is fun for everyone and that's wonderful when you have two siblings at home. There is live music and it's led with warmth, joy and energy. Classes in Chinnor, Haddenham and elsewhere, but on Tuesday and Friday it's right on our doorstep in Princes Risborough! Google Musical Mayhem and you will find them easily. Pay as you go or pay per term available.

Please share any tips for local activities or groups, especially the hyper-local gems people may not already know about....

Harriet Clark

Assistant Editor



Our monthly lunches continue at the Spindle and Thread on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. In February we're meeting for lunch on the 18th at 12 noon for 12.30pm. Please contact Susan a few days before if you're planning to come.

Our Social Afternoons take place on the 4th Monday afternoon each month, 2 till 4pm. We meet in the back room of Bon Ami for table games. We're so grateful to Bon Ami for allowing us to use their facilities. All are welcome, so why not join us over a cuppa and cake on the 23rd - no need to book.

Susan Bickerstaffe

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Acts of Kindness Day!

17th February



Not from the Vicarage - 'Go ahead, make my day'

Living in a village, there are houses that show evidence of having non-residential origins from an earlier time when every settlement was pretty much self-sufficient. I regularly walk past one such house which, judging by the large window frontage and wide window ledge, was probably once a shop. Every year, the current occupier uses the window ledge to create a beautiful Nativity scene that can be viewed by passersby. Each time I walk past it gives me much pleasure to see, so this year I thought it would be nice to pop a Christmas card through the door expressing my enjoyment of the display. In order not to seem 'creepy' I worded my card carefully and included my name and address.

The next day, a hand delivered card came through my letterbox from the occupier of said house. The message inside said 'I was delighted to receive your lovely card, it made my day.' Receiving that card made me so happy – to think that my one small act had made someone else happy. Win/win!

February can seem long and dark, like winter is lasting too long, but the 17th is Random Acts of Kindness Day. The idea is that on RAK day, kindness and goodwill are promoted through simple, thoughtful actions, encouraging people to spread joy and positivity through small acts of kindness. This serves as a reminder of the power of kindness to brighten someone's day and strengthen communities. Okay, so it's an American idea, but that doesn't stop it from being a good idea.

There are many ways that we can take part in RAK and show kindness to those around us. One popular idea is to 'pay it forward' where you pay

for a hot drink in a cafe so the next person to order that drink gets it for free. Imagine how you would feel if you went into your favourite Cafe Zero for a much needed coffee and were told that your hot drink was already paid for?

Other ideas include writing genuine notes of appreciation to colleagues or telling someone you appreciate them, offering to help with some onerous job or other, holding a grocery basket when someone is struggling to get their purse out and pay. RAK are limited only by your imagination and attentiveness.

It seems a bit sad that we need a day to remind us to be kind, but sometimes the business of everyday life means kindness becomes marginalised and seen as non-productive, but it is vital to our personal wellbeing. The World Health Organisation recognises five areas that contribute to wellbeing – being kind and generous is firmly embedded in their 'Wellbeing Index'.

The idea is not new. Jesus once told his followers that the most important things in life were to love God and love your neighbour as yourself. Small, random acts of kindness can be a way of loving our neighbours and often 'make their day'. Give it a try.

Go ahead. Make someone's day.

Every blessing,

Rev Jenny Ellis





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Junior Editor - *Winter Wonderland*

This month, I had the incredible experience of having my eyes opened to another world entirely, one which is forever changing and growing throughout the year. This world - which not many of us even pay much attention to - is the one of mushrooms and fungi, and so I sat down with the masterfully talented mycologist Sarah Jayne and discussed how we can learn not to take this local beauty for granted at this time of year.

In this especially harsh winter, much of our woods seem to disappear into barren trees and holly bushes, the occasional dusting of snow gracing us in fleeting rushes before melting the very next day. However, buried under this blanket are unseen wonders that are lost to our eyes in the cold. Although the appearance of the traditional "Stem and cap" mushroom is sparse, there is an abundance of unique and interesting fungi to be explored.

This adventure starts flat against wood with fungi that can be described as splats, (the crusts - real name corticioids) found most commonly under logs. These splats come most often in shades of white or beige, but most interestingly is a variety that can be commonly mistaken for blue paint! Its dazzlingly vibrant display of cobalt makes it starkly different to the wood's traditional palette of browns at this time of year. This season's variety of fantastic fungi can also include toothed and wrinkled specimens, and even a particularly interesting specimen that can bleed!

We are incredibly blessed in this area with stunning spots of natural beauty. And so, with such marvellous options around us, where could you possibly begin to look for these? In fact, you do not need to go far into the wood to get the best mushroom and fungi sightings, some of the rarest and most stunning examples can be found in the Naphill common just to the side of the road. An example of such a common winter find (because it can withstand frosts) includes the "Velvet Shank", found in late Autumn to Early Spring are most commonly spotted for their

golden-orange cap and velvet (hence the name!), dark brown stems. They grow in clusters on dead hardwood trees, making the common a brilliant place for their growth. More possible sightings include the Oysters, Jelly Ears and the micro fungi *Neodascyphus cerina*, although at less than 1mm across you may need x10 hand lens!

But with all of these spectacular demonstrations of beauty around us, it is important to stay safe as there are many deadly species - including the Funeral Bell, which can be mistaken for Velvet Shanks.

Sarah Jayne adds "it is also important to note is that Naphill Common itself is a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) these sites are specially designated to conserve particular species and it's important these areas are respected and not foraged from".

As a local mycologist and active member, Sarah Jayne is keen to mention the Bucks Fungus Group. The group runs a walk for Friends of Naphill Common (FONC) each year and local resident, Peter Davis has curated an amazing online resource for anyone interested in furthering their myco knowledge. Sarah Jayne adds "we don't have a foraging focus but study fungi in the wider mycological context contributing to fungal records to support people in their mycological journey".

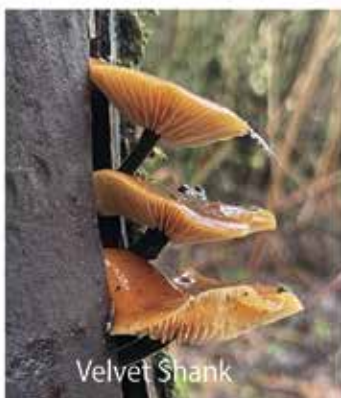
Overall, what reason is there to not get outside this season and get involved in searching for the jewels of our wildlife? A whole world of exotic and exciting finds awaits!

You can find details of walks in the area on the Bucks Fungus Group website - bucksfungusgroup.org.uk.

Thank you again to Sarah Jayne and her remarkably extensive mushroom and fungi knowledge. The article truly would not be possible without your help.

Matilda Waters

Junior Editor



Velvet Shank



Neodascyphus cerina



Terena caerulea



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May I begin by wishing everyone a very happy New Year.

I hope you were able to enjoy some time over the Christmas and New Year period with family and loved ones. For many, it was a welcome chance to pause, reflect, and spend time with those who matter most, and it once again highlighted the strong sense of community we are so fortunate to have across Mid Buckinghamshire.

As we start 2026, I am keen to get back out and about locally. I will shortly be announcing details of my upcoming constituency surgeries, including my Pint of View pub surgeries, which many residents find a relaxed and accessible way to raise issues and discuss what matters to them.

There is, of course, no shortage of challenges ahead. Locally, I continue to stand firmly against proposals

that would undermine Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service and reduce vital emergency cover for our communities. I will keep fighting to ensure Bucks gets the service it deserves. As always, I am working to protect our countryside from far reaching national development plans, including solar projects, which pose threats to our surroundings.

Nationally, I am pressing the Government to do more to support our family farms following recent changes to thresholds. Progress has been made by pressure from farmers across the country, but more needs to be done to protect rural communities. Our farmers are the backbone of our countryside and food security, and they deserve better.

2026 will undoubtedly bring further tests for Buckinghamshire, but I will never stop standing up for what is right for our area and making sure your voices are heard in Westminster.

As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns or questions you'd like to raise with me: greg.smith.mp@parliament.uk

Greg Smith MP



Valley Players - *Oh what a Panto!*



Valley Players played to sell out performances in their 2025 pantomime "Snow White and the Curse of the Ice Queen". Everyone enjoyed the traditional style of a Panto and joined in with the appropriate responses (oh yes they did), laughed and ,thank goodness, applauded!

It was another modern story from the pen of Peter Nuttall. The plot had a few tweaks, with the Wicked Stepmother being replaced by the Ice Queen who wanted to marry Prince Charming. However, the story ended happily with the Ice Queen being melted and Snow White marrying Her Prince.

The whole cast has to be congratulated for their effort not only in acting but also dancing and singing. Willow Randall , a long standing member of the of Valley Players, was a first rate director and, (as Snow White), brought the whole show together. As well as our regulars we were pleased to welcome some new cast members Dan Pritchard (Prince Charming), Peter Adams (Prod the Goblin) and Natalie Cole (Rose Red).

We will have a more traditional production next December, with A Christmas Carol, watch out for details.

Hurrah for Valley Players, celebrating our 10th anniversary in 2026!

Andrew Pitman Chairman, Valley Players)

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Friends of Naphill Common

I hope that by the time you read this the snow we've experienced over the last few weeks will be gone. Although it gives the landscape a very wintry feel, it can make driving tricky, particularly on the ungritted hills that abound in the Chilterns. But one benefit of snow is that it allows you to see what creatures have been visiting your garden (or walking through the woods and fields) without the need for an expensive trail camera.

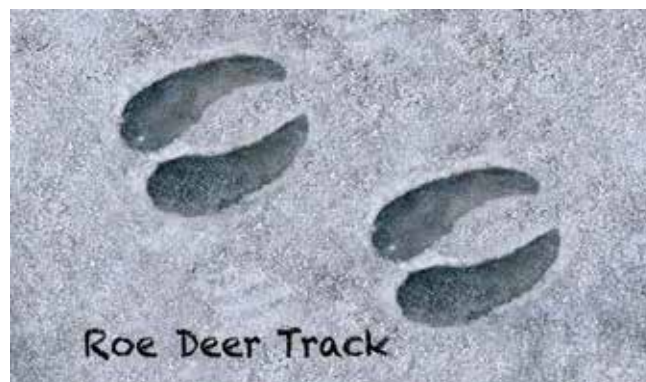
Dog owners will be familiar with the shape of a dog's paw print – a roughly triangular pad with two toes at the front and one at each side, each with a corresponding claw. Unsurprisingly, fox tracks are very similar, and it would need a far better tracker than I to distinguish them, except by size. Cat prints are also similar, but smaller of course, and with claws normally retracted, so they leave no print.



But badger prints (and there are a lot of badgers in the Chilterns) look quite different, more like a human hand print, with five toes above a broad rear pad. Badgers have long, sturdy claws for use in digging, and these will usually be visible. Squirrel tracks are similar, but obviously much smaller.



The other commonly encountered animal prints are from deer, which locally are very likely to be either muntjac or roe. Roe deer are about twice the size of a muntjac, leaving prints roughly 5x4cm, rather than 3x2cm.



I'm looking forward to Vaughan Ward's talk at the AGM on the "Long March" undertaken by allied Prisoners of War in 1945 – this hasn't occurred yet as I type, but will have happened prior to your reading these words.

Walks

Our monthly walks – a shorter walk (about an hour) led by Chris Miller at 10:30am on the first Wednesday of each month; and a longer walk (roughly 2 hours) led by Ron Collins at 9:25am on the third Monday – continue to be popular.

FoNC Working Parties

If you wish to join in with either of our weekly working parties, on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, our website (where our walking and other activities are also listed) has all the contact details:

<http://www.naphillcommon.org.uk/activities.html>

Because both working parties are dependent on the weather, it's always best to check with the organisers before setting off: Tuesdays – Peter Davis (HW 569303); Thursdays – Ron Collins (HW 562240).

Chris Miller
Chairman FoNC



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Hughenden Parish Council – Update

Happy New Year from Hughenden Parish Council!

As we step into 2026, we'd like to share a look back at what we achieved in 2025 and what's ahead for the year to come.

Reflecting on 2025

We're proud to have reached a full complement of Councillors, this has put us in a strong position to re-establish the Parish Council's Planning Committee, ensuring local planning matters receive the attention they deserve. Another highlight was the launch of our Bereavement Café, held on the second Monday of each month at the Parish Council offices, a safe and supportive space for those navigating loss.

Plans for 2026

Looking forward, 2026 promises to be a year of progress and community focus. Pending final approval at our January meeting, the Council is considering taking on the management of defibrillators across the parish, currently overseen by the Rural Community Defibrillator Group.

We are also working closely with Buckinghamshire Council to organise speed surveys at several locations as part of our ongoing Road Safety Initiative. In addition, the Council will soon be approving the 2026–2027 budget, ensuring resources are allocated to meet parish priorities.

Environmental Commitment

A parish-wide tree survey will be carried out this year. Where trees need to be removed for health or safety reasons, notices will be posted on our website. Wherever possible, the Council will explore options for replacement, though not necessarily in the same location or the same species.

Get Involved

Your involvement matters! Share your ideas and views with your ward Councillors and attend Council and Committee meetings. You can also contact the Parish Office directly at admin@hughenden-pc.gov.uk or visit our website at <http://www.hughenden-pc.gov.uk>.

Councillors for your ward:

Cllr Usha Prashar – usha.prashar@hughenden-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Richard Wilding – richard.wilding@hughenden-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Lee Anderson – lee.anderson@hughenden-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Aatif Kayyani – aatif.kayyani@hughenden-pc.gov.uk

Naphill Men's Club 2025 AGM

The Men's Club AGM will be held in the Men's Club room at **8pm on Wednesday 4th February 2026**. All members are invited and any prospective member is welcome to come and have a chat about what we do.

The Club is open to all men who live in Naphill and Walter's Ash. Those who live outside the area need to be sponsored by an existing member. We have two snooker tables which are available 7 days a week. We run both a snooker and billiards competition each year.

Further information is available from the chairman, Andrew Wasilewski at:

NaphillMensClub@Yahoo.co.uk



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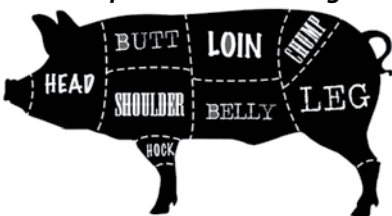
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Grief and Fascia: How Loss Lives in the Body

Grief is not only an emotional experience — it is a whole-body one. When we experience loss, shock, or deep change, the body responds alongside the heart and mind. One place the effects of grief can be held is within the fascia — the connective tissue that weaves through and supports the entire body.

The body's response to loss

Grief can activate the body's protective systems. Breath may become shallow, posture may collapse or brace, and muscles may tighten unconsciously. These responses are not wrong — they are natural attempts to cope with overwhelming change.

Because fascia is highly responsive to stress and emotion, it can begin to adapt to these protective patterns. Over time, this may show up as stiffness, aching, a sense of heaviness, or feeling "stuck" — physically and emotionally.

Why fascia is involved

Fascia is richly supplied with sensory receptors and is intimately linked to the nervous system. It responds not only to movement and injury, but also to emotional load and prolonged stress.

- Grief can create sustained tension patterns such as:
- Tightness in the chest or throat
- A sense of weight across the shoulders or back
- Restricted breathing or movement
- Fatigue or a feeling of disconnection from the body

These patterns can persist long after the initial loss, especially if the body hasn't felt safe enough to soften and release.

There is no "right" way to hold grief

Grief is deeply individual. Some people feel restless and agitated, others heavy and withdrawn. Some feel pain, others numbness. All of these are valid responses.

Importantly, fascia doesn't need you to analyse or relieve grief in order to respond. Gentle, respectful touch and movement can offer the body an invitation to soften — at its own pace.

How gentle bodywork can help

Myofascial therapy can provide a quiet, supportive space where the body is allowed to let go of held patterns without force. Slow, sustained contact helps the nervous system settle, allowing fascia to rehydrate and regain elasticity.

Clients often report:

- A sense of release or lightness
- Deeper, easier breathing
- Improved sleep
- Feeling more present or grounded
- A softening of long-held tension

Sometimes emotions arise; sometimes they don't. Both are completely okay.

Honouring the body's wisdom

Grief doesn't need fixing. It needs space, safety, and time. Working with the body can be a way of honouring what has been carried — without words, judgement, or expectation.

Whether your grief is recent or long-held, The Rosebine Clinic offers a calm, supportive space for easing physical tension and gently reconnecting with your body.

If you have questions, please get in touch:

Clare Goddard

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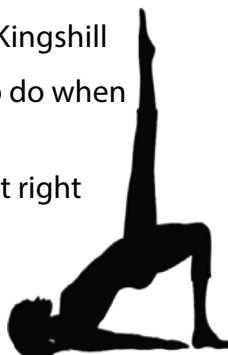
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February brings Valentine's Day, and with it the familiar question: how do you say something heartfelt without sounding awkward or repetitive? These days, the internet can help — whether you're already in a happy relationship or tentatively looking for one. From poems and messages to shared moments across distance, there are some genuinely lovely ways to use the online world to support real human connection.

♥ Already in Love?

Four thoughtful websites for romance & creativity

👉 poetryfoundation.org

An easy-to-browse collection of classic and modern love poems, including many familiar British poets. Perfect for borrowing a line or two rather than starting from scratch. Search for "love poems"

👉 www.suno.ai

For the adventurous: create a short song inspired by shared memories. You don't need musical experience — many people are surprised how moving the results can be. Scan code for example I wrote for a friend's engagement.



👉 www.lovebox.love

A small physical box that receives private digital messages. Especially popular with couples living apart — including many military and RAF families. My wife loves hers.

👉 jacquielawson.com

Beautiful animated e-cards, gentle puzzles, and seasonal games. Valentines is under the Holidays tab.

♥ Looking for Love?

Dating sites for mature users with strong safety guidance

These are UK-friendly and include built-in advice on spotting scams.

👉 www.ourtime.co.uk

Designed specifically for over-50s, with clear profiles and excellent safety guidance.

👉 www.silversingles.co.uk

Strong identity checks and moderation, which helps reduce fake profiles.

Reputable sites include safeguards, but genuine relationships don't rush, don't ask for money, and don't rely on secrecy. If something feels slightly off, talking it through with a trusted friend usually brings clarity.

Chris Dadd

Chris also runs DADD.TV, where he helps local businesses and charities with websites and digital marketing.

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Valentine's Day



Are you looking forward to Valentine's Day? At Naphill & Walters Ash School, friendships are valued by everyone. We care about the people we cherish; we all deserve a special day on which to be treated with kindness and to show how much we care about our loved ones.

The day is named after Saint Valentine, a priest who, legend suggests, defied a Roman emperor's orders and secretly married couples to spare the men from being conscripted to serve in war. The first Valentines card was printed in England in the 18th century and these cards later became a popular way to send messages of love.

While giving and receiving cards and gifts is lovely, we think that every day is a good day for treating those special to us with love.

The Media Team



Brownie Jumble Sale

Naphill Village Hall

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However, I have to say that the past three years have been very difficult for the gardener. In 2023 and 2024 we had almost constant rain. It was cool, but the most difficult aspect was that the sky was overcast most of the time so the plants were deprived of the energy of sunlight and the magic of photosynthesis. In this the evaporation of water from the leaves causes water to be pulled up from the plant roots, bringing nutrients from the soil. So in those years plants generally had poor growth and crops were seriously reduced. For vegetables such as beans, and for all fruit, pollination was very poor since the flowers were permanently wet and the bees and other insects could not pollinate one flower by another. Other crops which do not rely on flowering, such as all root vegetables, were reduced by the cool temperatures and the lack of sunlight for photosynthesis.

Then 2025. What a contrast! A very warm spring and summer included five heatwaves where the temperature exceeded 35 degrees Centigrade. We also had very little rain in spring and summer. A nightmare for gardeners where the task of watering was huge. I no longer have my allotment, contenting myself with a vegetable plot at the bottom of the garden and a greenhouse, so my watering task was not as big as it could have been (and easier since I could use a hosepipe which is not allowed on the allotments). We inherited a "well" or cistern sunk

into the lawn containing 2.5 tons of water, fed from the roof, which is very useful for ericaceous plants and for watering generally. Mains water arrived in Naphill and Walter's Ash in 1935 (thank you Bomber Command), but for the previous 4,000 years the inhabitants all had to collect water from the roof in a cistern. 2025 must have been like 1903 when there was so little rain that cisterns ran dry. People had no drinking water so the Council sent water bowlers. Thank goodness now for mains water and it seems a miracle that Affinity Water did not impose a hosepipe ban in 2025.

So, what can we expect in 2026? Since weather forecasts do not seem reliable even four days ahead, there is little chance of knowing what the weather will be several months ahead. So the gardener has to be capable of surviving in all weathers. Here are a few ideas. In extreme drought sow outdoor tomato "Outdoor Girl" which is a bush variety which does not seem to need watering, and beetroots, equally not needing watering and which are very expensive in the shops. To reduce evaporation from the soil, mulch using a covering of compost, grass cuttings, loose soil or black plastic strips between plants. Remove all weeds. For cool wet growing seasons plant out a couple of months earlier than normal to prolong the growing season (and hope for no late frosts!).

Good gardening!

Mike Mason



Shear Madness

February... what a miserable month, nothing happens, the weather is yucky and it's cold. We just need spring to hurry up, flowers in the garden and blossom on the trees guaranteed to put a smile on your face.

Retiring postman Julian had a lovely time at his leaving drinks. He was a little overwhelmed by how many came, I know he was dreading it, he likes to do things for other people but doesn't like a fuss himself. He'll still be popping up occasionally so you might see him around. Thank you to everyone pulling together as you always do, he'll miss you more than he thinks he will.

As you know we lost our beloved "shop Dog" Zak. Everyone is asking if I'll get another, but for now we are going to make the most of our new found freedom. This will be our "yes" year, doing all the things we couldn't do because we didn't want to leave him. The house and the shop feel very empty without him but it was his time, he was very old and went downhill very quickly. Thank you all for spoiling him for the last 16 years, he had the best life. I shall leave him on my advert so you can still see him.

So shall we do it all over again this year? Of course we will, looking forward to seeing old and new faces.

Love as always

Mandy x

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The Wheel News

Happy New Year to you all! We hope that everyone had a great Christmas and New Year. December was an amazing month here at The Wheel - it really felt like you were all out making the most of the festive season. I'd like to thank Julia and Bella who worked so hard, and to the rest of our fantastic team (university students included), well done. Our News Years Eve Pyjama Party was great fun, and so many people were in their PJ's!

We would also like to thank chef Bella for the last few years with us, and wish her all the best in her new job.

So, what's in store for 2026?

We are introducing TWOOGs (The Wheel Old Geezers and Gals). Yes some of you will remember Terry Wogan on Radio Two and his TOGs! On the last Sunday of each month we will be hosting a TWOOGs gathering for the single retirees of our villages to book for a Sunday Roast and be joined by other people in the same situation (and no, it's not a dating thing). Hopefully we can give you a good excuse to go out and meet others, and take the pressure off when it comes to cooking a Sunday Roast for yourself.

February

- The 6 Nations is starting on Thursday 5th. All games will be shown, and we are also doing the usual sweepstake alongside Princes Risborough Rugby Club.
- Saturday 14th is Valentine's Day, and we will have our romantic specials for you to treat the special person in your life throughout the week, not just for the one day.
- TWOOGs – Sunday 22nd

March

- Pie Week Tuesday 3rd- Sunday 8th – Lots of Pie Specials
- Sunday 15th – Mother's Day
- Tuesday 17th – St Patricks Day
- TWOOGs – Sunday 29th

April – June

- Easter April 3rd – 6th
- TWOOGs – Sunday April 26th
- May Bank Holidays 4th and 25th
- TWOOGs – Sunday 31st May
- 7th June – Classics on the Crick
- 12th + 13th June Napfest
- Football World Cup starts 11th June
- Sunday 21st June – Father's Day
- TWOOGs – 28th June

So that gives you all a six-month idea of what's happening. BUT... the most important date for your diary is RONFEST which this year will be on Saturday 11th July (fingers crossed for better weather).

See you all soon.

Mark & Claire.



Tel: 01494 562210
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Last inspection: 26 November 2025



TOP MARKS TO US! We are very pleased to announce that after our latest hygiene inspection, our 5 rating has been renewed. Many thanks to all of the team and their hard work helping us achieve the top rating.

Best Wishes for 2026

Ruth, Dorothy, Jackie, Rachel, Tracey, Ciara and Ella.

Our opening hours for January and February.

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On Monday 12th January, Naphill Neighbours met for the first meeting of 2026, which featured a talk given by Cathy Sturrock, Bekonscot's education officer. She asked us first about who had visited the village and it seems that we all had over the decades with children and grandchildren.

She told us that Bekonscot Model Village is the world's oldest surviving model village and one of the most visited attractions of its kind. It was created by Roland Callingham, a London-based accountant, who developed the village as a private hobby in the garden of his four-acre home.

Callingham had moved to Beaconsfield from Ascot and after his second wife insisted that his extensive model railway be removed from the house, the garden, which included a swimming pool and lake, was adapted to accommodate the train set. Early structures were so large that parts of the workshop had to be dismantled to move them into place. Over time, the village expanded to cover approximately two acres.

Callingham worked closely with his gardener, Tom Berry, who built the first model castle in 1928. The gardens opened to the public in 1929, with no entry fee; visitors were invited to make donations instead. Any surplus income was donated to local charities, a tradition that has resulted in millions of pounds being raised for charitable causes over the years.

In 1932, the village was officially named Bekonscot, a combination of Beaconsfield and Ascot. The model village depicted an idealised English townscape of the 1930s and quickly gained national and international recognition. It received several royal visits, including from Princess Elizabeth (later Queen Elizabeth II), who visited twice in her lifetime, with the latest royal visit being from the Duchess of Edinburgh and her children.

During the Second World War, photographs of the village were reportedly used for propaganda purposes. Bekonscot survived the war and was further expanded from 1948 onwards. In the 1950s, planning regulations required permission for each new model added by an aggrieved councillor, but was later dropped.

In 1957, Callingham suffered a stroke and as a result, a rotating summer house was built so he could continue to enjoy all the views of the village. He died in 1961 without children, after which Bekonscot was managed by staff and later taken on by the Church Army.

The village continued to develop throughout the late twentieth century. A coal mine was added in 1979 to mark the 50th Jubilee. During the 1990s, a deliberate decision was made to preserve the village strictly in its 1930s setting. A new railway (Mark 1) was introduced in

1990, completed in 1991, followed by additions such as Enid Blyton's house in 1997 and the Light Railway in 2001. Further developments included the Hoover Building in 2018 and a recreated 1930s station in 2023, complete with children's dressing-up activities.

Today, Bekonscot consists of six interconnected miniature villages set within landscaped gardens. It features hundreds of handcrafted buildings, over 3,000 feet of model railway track, and numerous working elements such as boats, windmills, and fairground rides. Carefully pruned real plants are maintained in scale to enhance realism. The site has also appeared in television programmes including *Midsomer Murders* and advertising campaigns.

Next month's meeting is on the 9th February, where Veronica Snoxell will be talking about her volunteering work. The meetings are held in Naphill Village Hall 1.45 for 2pm start. Guests are always welcome.

Jan Honey





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Local Tales - Wartime Memories

For me, now in my late 80s, my memories are much more random and unrelated. My earliest memories were of the second world war. My father fed us from our garden and his allotment by Louches Lane, to which he would carry my brother and I sat side-by-side on the front of his wheelbarrow, plus his tools, from our house in Stocking Lane (some three quarters of a mile) and back again with our vegetables. Our time away from home relieved my mother. With six children, my mother always seemed enveloped with steam from the wash tub or smoke from the woodburning cooker, cooking meals or making jam or preserving fruit. When home, we boys would be making camps in the woods and climbing trees. It sounds almost idyllic but over it all was the shadow of the war. We wondered at a sky sometimes seemingly full of bomber aircraft flying to or from the continent. As children, the war was just the talk of adults who would listen to the BBC news on the wireless every evening. As the war neared its end, I remember asking what be on the news when the war was over.

Looking back now, Naphill seems to have been lucky in surviving unscathed, especially as bomber command was so close. I've been told that the Germans were misled and bombed another area of the Chilterns. Towards the end of the war, there was an increasing tendency for enemy bombers to avoid almost certain destruction by flying east or west of their target – London, where anti-aircraft defences were intense - dropping their bombs at random and hopefully returning home. I remember a bomb landed near

Downley. Of course, this might have been a flying bomb, usually called a Doodlebug, or a V1 rocket, both frightening developments. I also remember being sent indoors as a fighter aircraft flew overhead firing its guns. My father knew that we could be killed by the discarded shell cases that were being ejected.

As the war started in 1939, evacuees (young people), were sent into the countryside from London to avoid the bombing that was expected. They were deposited upon families of child bearing age with their own home or renting. Those of school age were sent to the local school each morning and village children in the afternoon. Many of the evacuees seemed to have come from the poorer parts of London and shocked their new minders with the depths of their poverty. I remember one young lad who had been kept indoors and had difficulty walking, crying with fright when he first saw the full moon. Many evacuees remained when the war ended. Some were adopted or made their own way into work. Whatever happened to Elbe Finbow? A name, no doubt misremembered, but that stuck.

Eventually, peace came. Flags were waved and we took down the blackout from our windows and the half obscuring cover from vehicle headlights, that had meant driving at night was achieved seeing a only a small pool of light on the road ahead. Bread was white again instead of a shade of grey. Men and hope returned.

Philip Hussey.

A. ELLIS

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Naphill Lawn Tennis Club

The lead up to Christmas was celebrated by members at our Festive Tennis events with mulled wine and mince pies. Unfortunately, January's weather was not exactly conducive to playing tennis but a few hardy souls did venture out to have an icy slither around the courts!



Monday morning group coaching sessions are due to start again shortly and our excellent coaches are busy planning events for the Spring/Summer.

On Saturday 31st January, we will be holding a Charity Music Night in aid of Cancer Research and Naphill Tennis Club and featuring the popular band 'Red & Grey'. Tickets were a sell-out last time!



Hopefully, you will receive your Gazette before 31st but, if not, you will probably have seen posters advertising this event around the village.

We are now looking forward to warmer weather and more activity on the courts!

Jenny Tench

For further information on Naphill Tennis Club please visit our website: www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/NaphillLTC or get in touch with our membership secretary at: naphilltennismembership@gmail.com



Naphill & Walters' Ash Residents Association

NAWARA was formed more than forty years ago to keep an eye on planning applications which might affect the two villages. This we continue to do but life has been made more difficult since last March. Under the guise of GDPRs comments made by individuals or non statutory bodies such as NAWARA can no longer be seen on the Bucks Council website. Those made by statutory bodies such as parish councils are visible. This means that we have no way of identifying when private individuals support or oppose an application. If you would like our support or advice in respect of planning matters please get in touch with me at the number shown near the front of the Gazette.

Speeding is always a matter of concern to residents. The road works on Main Road have temporarily curbed the ambitions of would-be Stirling Mosses but if you would like to contribute to road safety in the village we are looking for a couple of people to help man our Speed Watch camera. The work, which is carried out in conjunction with the police, is not onerous. Please give me a ring if you would like to help.

Best wishes

David Frost

Vice Chairman





A Very Happy New Year.

The Christmas period proved both entertaining and challenging for all our local u3a groups. We were all proud of the support we were able to give to the Christmas Tree exhibition held in High Wycombe Parish Church. Our tree was decorated with many messages from new and established members who welcomed our work in the community, particularly in helping to combat loneliness.

The culmination of all our activities was perhaps the Christmas Coffee Morning held at Naphill Village Hall. Our Antiques and Collectables Group staged a pantomime based on the BBC's Antiques Road Show, followed by our Handbells Group ringing out a series of Christmas carols - accompanied by deafening audience participation. The Science, Geology and Computer Groups looked into the logistics of Father Christmas's delivery job, and presented their research into the authenticity of the stories they told to their children and grandchildren. It was great fun. Missed it? Join us in 2026!

The New Year is off to a promising start with our groups (there are more than 30!) finalising their programmes for the year ahead. Our Local History Group is looking into the work

of architect Sir George Gilbert Scott, who was born in Gawcott, near Buckingham. You may know him for his work at Saint Francis, Terriers or Amersham Hospital, (originally a workhouse), two of the hundreds of architectural projects managed by Sir George and later his Grandson Giles. George Gilbert is famous for his design of St Pancras Station and Giles Gilbert for the iconic red telephone box, now sadly all but disappeared from our streets.

The World We Live In Group will be looking into the situation developing between Taiwan and China. They will have the support of a Politics Professor from SOAS who has a speciality in Taiwan. As I write this, he is on a flight back from Taiwan to see his family.

For further information and details of all our groups, please contact Paul Gilliam, or visit our website or Facebook pages.

Paul Gillam

gilliamph@aol.com





Our sincere thanks to everyone in the local community for their incredible generosity which made this year's Christmas Collections a great success. As a result, our Charity account has been significantly boosted, allowing us to support numerous requests for financial assistance.

Looking ahead to Spring, our focus remains on supporting both the youth and elderly of Princes Risborough and the surrounding areas. We are committed to continuing our partnerships with the Town's Youth Club, the Interact Clubs of Princes Risborough's secondary school and the Royal Grammar School, and the support of local Primary Schools, including those in Monks Risborough, Longwick, Hughenden, Walters Ash, and more. Additionally, we organise Chess and Art competitions for students from nine local primary schools, as well as providing support to the Bucks Young Carers. We're also deeply committed to our senior community members, working closely with two Day Care Centres in Princes Risborough and Bourne End (where we've played an instrumental role in their establishment and continue to provide Trustees). This includes us hosting annual Summer and Christmas Lunches for over 75s living alone. It's just one of the many

ways we aim to make a positive impact on those who need it most.

But at the heart of everything we do is friendship. As a dynamic and welcoming group of men and women we pride ourselves on making a difference while also having a great time together. Over the past year we've welcomed 10 new members, with more potential members on the horizon. If you're looking for a way to give back and build lasting friendships, we'd love to have you join us. Visit our website and contact us if you'd like to come along to one of our Monday evening meetings at the Whiteleaf Golf Club to see what we're all about.

And, if you know of any causes that could benefit from our support, please don't hesitate to get in touch using the contact details below. Together, we can continue making a real difference!

You can contact us at: rcpr.org.uk or use the QR code below, or contact David White on 07787 750889 - email: dwhite2025@hotmail.com.



David White

Gordon the Birdman

At this time of year Data is published from hundreds of conservation bodies throughout Britain on the state of nature through the previous year. The general consensus being that although the speed of decline has slowed there is still a decline.

2001 is used as the benchmark year, as the mean monthly spring temperature and rainfall were similar to the 30, 40 and 50 year average (1961 to 2010). This is due to be re-evaluated in 2030. Average monthly temperatures up to June 2025 were between 1.5 and 3.0 degrees C higher, with April being the third warmest and June the sixth warmest in the English temperature data set dating back to 1659. Meanwhile, rainfall totals were below the average with March being the 15th driest since 1836.

Migrant birds are noted by volunteers who record the date of a bird's arrival back into the UK after the winter months. In 2025 Chiffchaffs were the most common migrant recorded with the average date of arrival being 18th of March. This was 20 days earlier than during the benchmark year. The spring arrivals of Black Cap, Cuckoo, House Martin, Swallow and Swift were also early compared to the benchmark year, by 18, 8, 7, 9 and 6 days respectively. However, the numbers of some species of

migrants were too low to calculate a UK average, Turtle Doves and Nightingales among them.

Butterflies on average recovered well after a disastrous 2024 and all the butterflies were recorded earlier than the benchmark year. The UK average date of the first recording of the Orange Tip was the 12th of April being 27 days earlier than the benchmark year and the earliest on record. The warm and a dry weather in March to April provided ideal conditions for insect flight and pollination and we saw the results with bumper crops of fruit and berries last autumn.

All species of flowers and trees recorded flowered earlier than the benchmark year, this ranged from 12 days for Wood Anemone to 35 days for Hazel with Horse Chestnut and Oxeye Daisy being the earliest on record. The first leaves on oak trees were recorded 24 days earlier than the benchmark year which probably could be linked to the early records of Blue Tits breeding. Blue Tits feed their young on caterpillars that in turn feed on young Oak leaves so time their breeding so chicks will benefit from a peak in caterpillar abundance.

Gordon.



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Winter Walks with Your Dog

During the winter months, the weather can be very unpredictable, and this can affect our dogs in different ways. Some dogs are more than happy to splash through puddles and come home muddy, while others would much rather stay cosy indoors! Cold, wet conditions can be challenging, but with a few simple adjustments you can help keep your dog comfortable, happy, and healthy all winter long.

Wet and Muddy Weather

- **Keep a positive mindset** – If you're dressed warmly and staying dry, your dog is more likely to feel confident heading out in the rain with you.
- **Think about waterproof coats** – Not every dog needs one, and with so many styles available it can be hard to know what to choose. Asking for recommendations can help, and it's always best to introduce any new clothing slowly so your dog feels comfortable wearing it.
- **Choose walks carefully** – Where you can, try to pick routes that aren't too muddy. Sometimes a short on-lead walk on pavements can be a good alternative. If you're walking when it's dark, reflective clothing, leads, or flashing collars can help keep both you and your dog safe and visible.
- **Clean up calmly after walks** – Rinsing off muddy paws and coats and drying your dog properly helps prevent sore or irritated skin. If you're short on time, it's better to shorten the walk than to rush the clean-up, as staying calm keeps this a positive experience for your dog.
- **Regular grooming** – Brushing your dog often helps keep their coat clean, prevents tangles, and gives you a chance to check for any sore spots. Try to make grooming a relaxing, enjoyable routine for both of you.

Very Cold Weather

- **Use a lead in snowy conditions** – Snow can hide holes, sharp objects, or other hazards, so keeping your dog on a lead can help avoid accidents.
- **Help your dog stand out** – Bright or reflective collars, harnesses, or coats make it much easier to keep an eye on your dog, especially in poor visibility.

- **Wipe paws after every walk** – Even when it's not muddy, road grit can irritate your dog's skin. Antifreeze is also extremely dangerous and has a sweet taste, so giving paws a quick wipe after walks is really important.

And finally, if the weather is truly miserable, remember that walks aren't the only way to keep your dog happy. Indoor games and enrichment activities are fantastic for mental stimulation and can be just as tiring as physical exercise. The Dogs Trust has some great ideas you can try at home

Charlie Hughes



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2025 was a very successful year for SHH Fundraising, raising money for four local hospices in the Chilterns.

We are starting our events in 2026 with a quiz night on the 8th February, with the same successful format as in 2025, 2024 and 2022. Once again the questions are being asked by hosts Al Bowyer and Jill Rogerson and the ticket price includes a meal. Details can be found at our website www.shh-shop.org.

In 2025 we benefitted from a wide array of fundraising activities. One person took part in the Blenheim Palace Triathlon, and in June a local pub that regularly holds monthly quiz nights raised funds for SHH.

A Pilates group raised money by cleaning jewellery, and individuals donated to SHH instead of sending Christmas cards. A family in North Dean set up a dedication fund on the online platform 'Much Loved', which allows friends

and family to make donations in memory of a loved one. This is something we have benefitted from a number of times over the years.

We have also had support from The National Association of Tangent Clubs.

If you would be interested in raising funds in 2026 please contact me at events@shh-shop.org or on 07778 803260. If you are signing up for a half marathon or similar event and are looking for an organisation to raise funds for, we would love to hear from you.

We raise much needed funds for Helen & Douglas House for Children, Rennie Grove and Peace Hospice Care, South Bucks Hospice at Butterfly House and Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity.

Gráinne Suter,
Chair SHH

THE NAPHILL AND WALTERS ASH GAZETTE

2026 ADVERTISING RATE CARD

OUR COLOUR FEATURE ADS RUN FROM MARCH – FEBRUARY AND THE COMMITMENT IS FOR THE YEAR.

PLACEMENT	COST £	PRODUCTION
FULL BACK PAGE - PREMIUM position	POA	PORTRAIT 18.5cm x 28cm
Full page - Internal	675	
Half page	360	LANDSCAPE 18.5cm x 13.5cm
Quarter page	190	PORTRAIT 9cm x 13.5cm
Eighth page	100	9cm x 6.5cm

COPY DEADLINES 2026:

All adverts/copy to be submitted by the 15th of the month BEFORE the month of issue

ARTWORK FORMAT

Print ready PDF
JPEG
TIFF
IN-DESIGN
ILLUSTRATOR

EXTRA: FACEBOOK

Each advertiser can post once a week on the Gazette Facebook page.

Frequency: Monthly – 10 issues a year: combined aug/sept and dec/jan
Circulation: 1020 printed

FOR MORE INFORMATION, TERMS & CONDITIONS, AND TO DISCUSS AVAILABILITY, PLEASE MESSAGE VIA FACEBOOK OR EMAIL GAZETTEEDITOR@BTINTERNET.COM

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WYCOMBE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Now, with the milder weather, is a good time to look out for early Spring flowers and buds. Get down low to take your photograph. Avoid bright sunlight. Overcast is best. Always look at the background for distractions before taking the photograph.

Wycombe Photographic Society meets in the large hall at Hughenden Valley Village Hall, on the first 4 Wednesdays of each month at 8pm.

4th Feb	Members Evening #2 – members show their work
11th Feb	Talk by Paul Mitchel FRPS
18th Feb	Themed Assignment: In My World - Prints & DPI's
25th Feb	Open Evening
4th Mar	Members Evening #3 – members show their work
11th Mar	Digital Workshop by Jan & David Harris

Programme of events subject to change. To see everything that is happening at Wycombe Photographic Society please visit our website at: -

www.wycombephotosociety.org.uk

Peter Davis

Membership Secretary

Wycombe Photographic Society



Photograph courtesy Peter Davis

Last Word - *and it's goodbye from me!*

When Jonathan sent me his editorial he asked if I was blushing? Jonathan, I most definitely am BLUSHING and completely overwhelmed by your very kind, generous words and the front cover, which Pedro loves and feels sure he deserves for his long stint as the office guard dog!

It is extremely rare for me to be short of words, but I am truly grateful to Jonathan for taking over the editorial hot seat. As many of you know, Jonathan is a brilliant professional photographer and businessman with boundless enthusiasm and energy who will lead the Gazette ever towards new heights. He is the "safe hands" I am charged with handing the Gazette on to.

Being the longest serving Gazette editor has been a great privilege and one I have enjoyed, well most of the time. I certainly couldn't have done it without a lot of support from you all, subscribers, contributors,

advertisers, the fantastic Gazette team and of course Himself who has always been by my side through the good and the tough times, an absolute rock, to whom I owe so much.

Whilst I have managed, at last to hand the editorial baton on, I am still left with gathering in the copy, sending it to Harriet to edit and then laying the magazine out. I am OLD, my physical disabilities are ever increasing, if there is a SOMEBODY who would like to take my remaining jobs on, I should be so grateful. In the meantime, thank you to you all and I will look forward to receiving the March contributions on or before 12 February please.

Sonia





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